Quality of Life CHALLENGE

Proud recipients of a 2006 award from the Quality of Life CHALLENGE !! (qolchallenge.ca)

Victoria Street Newz

July 2007

Sold by donation

to help end poverty & homelessness

minimum price - 50 cents

Thanks for your support!!

"All the news that fits, we print"

May money from the sale of this newspaper be used for peace, and pass through healing hands.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled newsprint with veggie ink since 2004. Please share, and recycle.

Vol. 4 No. 4

some thoughts for your pennies

From: Livable Income For Everyone <gli2020@shaw.ca>

Here is a million: $1,000,000

Here is how many million it takes to equal $1 Billion:

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Sub total= 200,000,000 (we are now at two-hundred million. Whew, on we go.)

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Ah! $1 Billion... one-thousand million is a billion.

What Would You Do With It?

About Street Newz

"Building Bridges within our Downtown Community"

Coordinator & Website: Janine Bandcroft
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft
Distribution: John @ Douglas/Fort St.

The Victoria Street Newz mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for $.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like to encourage a sliding-scale economy which offers people a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by taking action for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

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Janine's Jibe

It's a busy conference summer for this independent media person -- in June I attended the NCRA (National Campus and Community Radio Association) conference in Vancouver on behalf of CFUV, and at the end of July I'll be hopping the train to Portland for a NASNA (North America Street Newspaper Association) Conference.

I'm looking forward to checking out Portland's Dignity Village while I'm there, and of course networking with lots of interesting alt-media types. I may have to resist the sort of copious note-taking I did in Vancouver, though, as I'm now experiencing 'computer arm' which is rather frightening for someone who spends as much time as I do in front of the machine. Perhaps it's a sign that I ought to get out more, enjoy the summertime, avoid the burn-out that's so common among social justice activists.

But it's difficult to take time away when there's soooo much work to be done for peace and justice.

One important thing my time in Vancouver taught me -- this newspaper and its team of writers and vendors is awesome !!! Perhaps it's not cool to blow our own horn, but we are doing remarkable work - we are keeping a small group of people from going hungry or homeless, and we are connected to an amazing piece of work that is filled with honest and insightful offerings. Thanks to everyone who's keeping it alive -- I'll represent us judiciously in Portland, and I'll do my best to keep you informed about any interesting findings there.

A special THANK YOU to John and friends at the Canadian Community Housing Foundation (and ICO) who have sparked an innovative fundraising challenge for us (see pg 12). Street Newz is happy to offer a full collection (3+years) of back issues for any organization that participates in the volume subscription idea.

It's true that a small group of people can contribute to significant change in the world - thanks for all you're doing to contribute to a brighter future for all!

UVic Attempts to ban Peter Verin from Campus

Thanks, janine, for your interest with respect to the apparent banning of myself from UVic: invoking trespass law, another in an extraordinary series of mistakes, attempts to skirt the higher court; UVic freely entered into litigation 6 years ago, personally counter-claiming my B.C. Supreme Civil action, against them. "Them", essentially, are Property Mgt. types who retaliated (trespass, May 5th, 2007) against my filing an assault charge, in September, 2006, against a Campus Security Officer.

UVic Property Mgt. enjoys a disproportionate power relative, ironically, to the academic sector, acting with impunity, under the immunity of the University Act. Meanwhile, the mainstream media, by which I include Times- Colonist and Monday Magazine, are (a) personalizing and reducing the issues to the 'burntout 60s prof' morphed into 'homeless bum, living on campus', both equally unfounded, (b) one- sidedly privileging 'the machine'/ public relations leverage of UVic's old boys club and (c) omitting the factual detailed reality, the principled issues [endemic abuse, to which mine pale in insignificance, laughable 'process' and 'sustainability'] or to address the larger stakes,- thereby compromising the 3 cornerstones of a University, namely intellect, integrity and freedoms.

Peace, out
.....peter.....

editor's note: I graduated from UVic in 1999 and again in 2001 and, like many UVic students, I can attribute some of my more memorable moments to conversations with Peter Verin. Peter's presence was a constant reminder that the 'real world,' that nether region that exists beyond UVic's boundaries, expects us to do more than just study and think and share our philosophical ponderings. Enjoy these, your glory days, Peter's presence seemed to say -- someday you'll be out there, in the world, working for the man. Peter's an environmentalist, a recycler, a philosopher, and the decision to remove him from UVic is one that will leave the campus a colder, emptier place.

To the Editor,

I see the Campbell government is begging the feds to help us with the effects of flooding that was predicted months ago. It's still our tax dollars, whichever government pays. But the people who cause the flooding, and profit from it, never seem to share any of the costs.

The old-growth forests, besides providing the best timber and most diverse habitat, also take up moisture. Over 50% of our rainfall is recycled back to the atmosphere through the trees and other plants. The rest is slowly released to the water table after filtering through the ground cover, which used to carry us through much of the summer dry period. Clearcutting, like the Weyerhaeuser-Brascan mess on Mount Benson above Nanaimo, has eliminated both these factors.

So why isn't Brascan paying for the flooding they're causing? And where's the so-called Taxpayer's Federation? Our governments should pass legislation that require companies to operate in such a way that forest cover is retained.

In the meantime, a halt should be placed on all clearcut logging in BC. The only thing better for our environment and slowing global warming would be the elimination of air travel.

Jim Erkiletian
Nanaimo, BC

Support a ban on unnecessary engine idling

From the Oak Bay Green Committee

10 seconds. A mere ten seconds is the amount of time Natural Resources' Canada recommends you leave your engine idling while running errands, chatting with a friend, waiting at the ferry or picking your children up after school. "Avoiding unnecessary engine idling is something that we can all immediately do to minimize our contribution to greenhouse gases," explains Oak Bay Green Committee member Valerie Williams.

The Oak Bay Green Committee (OBGC) and GreenGatherings recently launched a community-wide No Engine Idling campaign targeting Oak Bay's municipal schools. The campaign provided schools with No Engine Idling Aluminum Signs and Information Kits. "The No Engine Idling campaign not only educates drivers about the need to reduce emissions, it creates awareness around the relationship between society's over-reliance on vehicles and the damage it is doing to the environment and our children," explains campaign co-ordinator Britt Karlstrom.

According to Natural Resources Canada children are especially susceptible to carbon emissions due to their developing lungs and need to take in oxygen at an increased rate; exposing them to increased amounts of particulate matter believed to cause respiratory related illnesses. Often, school parking lots are hot spots for idling vehicles – as caregivers drop off and pick up children in early morning (when children are arriving) and afternoon (when children are leaving).

As well, vehicle emissions greatly contribute to the pollutants that contribute to greenhouse gases – the gases that are responsible for the climatic warming we are experiencing on Earth. "For every litre of gasoline used, the average car produces about 2.4 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO_2), the principal greenhouse gas.' Natural Resources Canada further advises, 'If every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Canada avoided idling for just five minutes a day, we would prevent more than 1.6 million tonnes of CO_2 from entering the atmosphere each year.'

For more info: www.greengatherings.ca/OBGC

TWENTY-NINE PERCENT INCREASE CONTROVERSY

by Peter Verin

The news story, itself, isn't insignificant. It draws attention to itself, for its very unnecessary-ness. It refuses to go unnoticed, so we have to wonder what mindset would be so foolish to move that item forward: it's a little bit like a maskless bank robber mugging for the camera.

The difference, of course, is that, like Hitler's modified policies of extermination, it breaks no laws, imperfectly legal: legitimacy appears to be neither the issue, nor at stake, if it's covered by the laws which, in this instance, it isn't; if only because it's an obscene gesture, like giving somebody the finger, only worse, because we've got to live with the humiliating irony of politicians exulting in their post- election & opposition meltdown, according to '29% day' organizer Ted Hawryluk & Street Newz Editor Janine Bandcroft. We should distinguish between decriminalizing marijuana, for instance, and legalizing marijuana: to legalize it delegitimates, unnecessarily politicizes, draws attention to it. Like it or not, Campbell has declared war; war, (ob)seen for what it is, apparent stridency aside, is having relinquished control, conceded that the declaration's in lieu of imagination/ alternatives. Campbell has legalized a payoff, which should serve as the basis of a collective action suit,- sue the pants off the bastards!!!!!

The Supreme Court has just ruled that BILL 29, by coincidence, violates The Charter, Freedom of Association, Collective bargaining, thereby restoring the flagging morale of Nanaimo's recently laid- off government health workers. Yesterday, a laid- off 25 year health care veteran, of a couple to 3 years ago questioned whether a 3rd force, a new party could sufficiently convince the masses that they, themselves, weren't reactionary, a la NDP, with indistinct imagination because the NDP fails, anytime soon, to be anything more than Liberal foils. The Liberals are shameless, so we mustn't waste time trying to rehabilitate them or wasting everyone's time by being reactionary ourselves: for 17 years, abused kids haven't seen an increase, my monthly bus pass went up $8.25, in April, whereas MLAs aren't known to use public transport because they've been privately bought and sold! We've bought the best politicians that money can buy, the best health that waiting lists can afford, the best 'education' that money can employ, the best 'justice' that money can buy, and as the environment self destructs, with our huge assistance, we'll throw money at the problem, such as carbon offsets, instead of dealing with the issues!!!!!

My friend Dave is convinced that the 29% MLA increase is prompted by the selective boom and bust mentality: a booming housing market - notwithstanding that if you listen closely you'll hear it crack - overcrowded/ polluted Mediterranean and melting Alps is our beloved politician's cue, seduction/sedition and 'judgement' call to couple declaring N/W Canada, namely B.C. the new world playground, on behalf of the rich and powerful.

Hack politicians & sleaze artists bring us the games fiasco, Vancouver 2010: Maple Ridge deconstruction, the death of imprisoned Elder Nahanee, dumping on Betty Krawczyk, evacuating low income tenants, homeless and precarious Whistler combine to render less certain the skewed theory underlying megaprojects/ bread and circuses; mercurial high positions rewarded handsomely, by themselves, point directly to conflict of interest: are we deflected/ misdirected by the rhetorical 'they do so in the course of serving us?'

Whether this or anything else has to do with 'control; issues is just that money feeds the absurd connection between the theory that we are governed and that WE are the government whose elected representatives serve & the factual reality that we're ruled by collective hallucination Premiers and disaffected amalgams: can we foreclose? Can we go for the jugular, without being overly defensive/ineffective or overtly offensive/ reactionary?

Realistically, what is the alternative? Can we stop fighting, set aside our differences and stop pleasing our masters long enough to suspend divide and conquer, to break the cycle of action- reaction? Can we heed the call to insurgency? Let's one/ two punch them: (1) launch a collective action suit, on behalf of disaffected B.C.ers, then, (2) amongst them, launch a 3rd force Party of impeccable rewarded, but uncompromised, integrity.

Dear: People who think you have the right to impose "authority,"

It has come to my attention that you think you run the show here on this planet, that you hold a knowledge with which the masses could not be trusted. It is for this reason that I must tell you, out of love, that you are our equals. Control is a delusion fueled only by one believing in its power. Well, it is my duty to inform you that there are people who see for themselves and know that control is a delusion - your delusion. Therefore, your control tactics can no longer work on us.

I understand that you have put a lot of work into making things the way that they are, in a way that convinces the people - and even you, perhaps - that they need you. I also understand that because of your efforts a lot of you, upon seeing the truth of these words, will try to cling to what you have worked so hard to achieve and maintain. Is it worth it to continue living lies, maintaining the darkness? Or is it worth it to sacrifice the time and work you've put into this in order to walk in truth from this point onwards? It is my dearest hope that you save yourselves from these ways now. That being said, should you not, you will find the full extent of your persecutions turned upon you at your own hands.

It is because of the people who see that I am writing this letter to you. It is we who, in these times, experience knowingly the extent of your persecution. It is we who feel the realness and closeness of the imminent change approaching. It is we, in a large part, who are open to working as tools for evolution. In this, you see, we will bring revolution.

And so, the people who see, and know the absolute needlessness of the system you impose, are now establishing community. We, without your system, are inhabiting this land. You will not tell us to "move along" or that we've no right to be here. Should you pretend authority over us, you will find very quickly the truth of the words written previously, "your control tactics no longer work on us".

Lies cannot hold authority over truth, nor can dark remain when the light is shone upon it. Do not have concern, ours is the way of peace, love, joy and truth. We will be happy to have you as our brothers and sisters should you recognize yourselves as such, as we already see you this way. However, we will not allow you any longer to delude yourselves in thinking you have power over us. Your spell of the years has been broken and is now strung together only by lies, which are weak and present no contest to truth.

Sending you love and wishing for you to receive the courage to change,
Your Sister and Earth Warrior

2050: Population Problem for Paradise

From George Simich

Your name is Ozymandius, King of Kings;
We look on ye works, ye mighty, and despair.
--with apologies to P. B. Shelley

Say the following aloud, then repeat. Nine billion, four hundred and four million, two hundred and ninety-six thousand, three hundred and eighty-four (9,404,296,384)[1].

No matter how we express that number, that is a lot—a lot of people. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that there would be 9.5 billion people in 2050 (www.census.gov/ipc/www/worldpop.html). According to the same source, world population currently stands at 6,605,046,992. In fewer than fifty years, we are going to add three billion people to our numbers. What are we going to do? How are we going to feed these people, house them, clothe them, educate them, or deal with the demands they will place on ever-decreasing resources such as land and water? If we are incapable of providing even a basic nutritional diet for six and a half billion people, how are we going to feed nine and a half billion people?

If we do not develop alternative energy sources and, instead, we choose to remain fossil fuel based economies, what impact will this increased population have on the environment? How many billions of cars will be added to our already congested roads and highways? When our leaders speak to the issues of climate change, poverty, education, and health care, offering their ludicrous, myopic short and long-term solutions, do they consider how this increased population will influence those stratagems? Of course, our esteemed leaders do not have a plan; they simply spin their candyfloss solutions to have the appearance, but not the substance, of a plan.

We refuse to curb our numbers; we refuse to curb our appetites; and we refuse to face the consequences of our actions; so, what are we willing to do? Historically and intentionally, we have used war, disease, genocide, murder, and starvation to limit our population. As we know, these absurd methodologies have met with limited success; but this is all we have tried to date, because these are the easiest and most ineffective solutions.

We murder twenty-seven thousand children each day, but this does not begin to address the problem; I suppose we could kill more babies, as long as they are not white and do not live in the G8; this seems to be the common practice. Nothing prevents us from murdering two hundred thousand children a day or four hundred thousand kids; if there is no moral quandary about killing ten million children annually, why would that change if we increased the number?

And war, although effective in its own right, still does not adequately deal with the problem. By the end of WWI, we had killed eight million people; by the end of WWII, we had killed eighty million people—merely a drop in the proverbial bucket of blood. As a means of addressing the issue of population, war is insufficient and inefficient. If we are going to employ war as our means of population control, then we need to go nuclear. Nuclear weapons will thin out our numbers in a fission flash. (However, please nuke me first, because I am not the least interested in surviving a nuclear war. Why would anyone want to survive a nuclear war)?

Genocide is a particularly nasty, inept business. Eight hundred thousand people murdered in Rwanda; two hundred thousand people slaughtered in Darfur; seven hundred thousand people massacred in Iraq; millions of people dead or dying of AIDS, yet our population continues to increase. It seems to take forever to hack 800,000 people to death with machetes—not at all time or cost-effective. And our numbers increase regardless.

As a rule, we refuse the diseased everything the world has to offer, but they refuse to die in a quick and orderly fashion; they linger on and on in anguish and angst, costing us needed resources and wealth, even though we give them nothing but promises and placebos. Talk about ungrateful. We cannot wait for these people to die of starvation and disease; we need an efficient means of processing them. If we are unwilling to medicate the diseased and we are simply going to force them to suffer for five or ten years before they die, then would it not be more productive, pragmatic, and placid to poison or to hang them—lethal injection is almost a moral act. We could cut their throats, but who is going to handle all that dead weight and clean up the mess?

At first thought, the above suggestions might seem to be morally reprehensible and outrageous; but, considering that we commit these acts daily, let us not pretend moral outrage; that only confuses us. We torture people and animals every second of every day. By forcing children to endure the excruciating pain of disease and starvation for the duration of their short, wretched lives, we, in fact, torture them. We torture children for the benefit of the shareholders of Pfizer and Ford. Horror, torture, murder, and madness delight us—that is quality entertainment for some of us.

So, let us entertain the original question. What are we going to do about this problem? Seven billion people on this planet in 2013; in less than two decades—2026—there will be eight billion people. Using a best guess, we can assume that of the three billion people that we will add by 2050,

About 1.75 billion people will live in abject poverty
About 600 million people will live in relative poverty
About 625 million people will join the working, lower middle, or middle classes
About 20 million people will join the upper middle class
About 5 million people will join the wealthy
About 500 people will join the billionaires' club

When will we reach critical mass? ? How are we going to feed these people, house them, clothe them, educate them? How are we going to control our numbers, ethically and morally? Who will determine what those ethics and morals will be? At what point will our numbers, our actions, and our stupidity take us past the limit of this planet's ability to sustain us? Maybe, we are already there, and deservedly so. Do we even deserve to survive as a species?

Sic transit gloria mundi.

[1] Please see www.census.gov/ipc/www/worldpop.html for a comprehensive table of population statistics and their related dates.

George Simich is a lifelong social justice, human rights, peace, and environmental advocate.

ANTI-WAR STREET THEATRE AT VICTORIA DAY PARADE

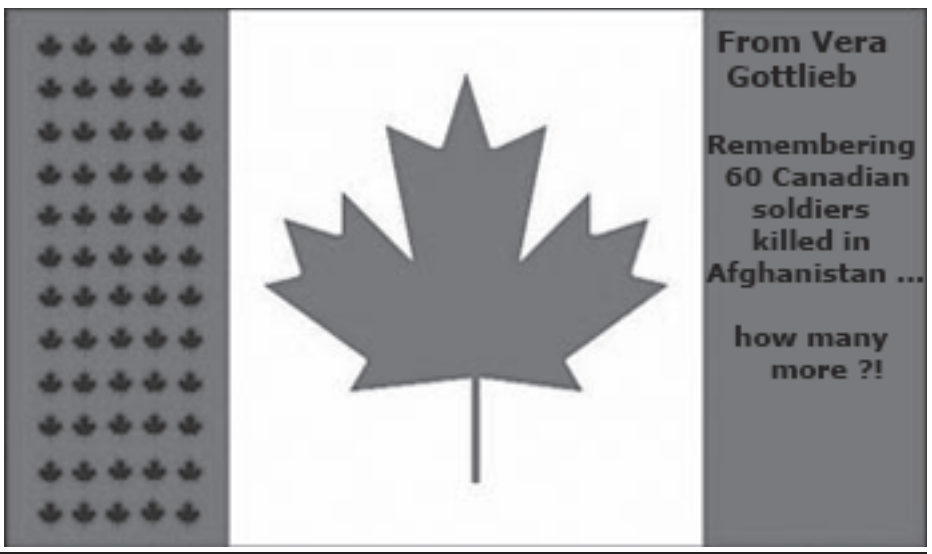
An anti-war group performing street theatre was an unofficial addition to the Victoria Day Parade in downtown Victoria on May 21st. Three "prisoners", dressed in orange jumpsuits and black hoods, were handcuffed and chained together. The "prisoners", who were accompanied by a "soldier" wearing army fatigues, marched in the parade until they were detained by police. The street theatre was organized by Victoria's Canada Out of Afghanistan Campaign.

As thousands in Victoria gathered to celebrate a statutory Canadian holiday marking Queen Victoria's birthday, the street theatre was a stark reminder of Canada's contested Afghanistan mission. Canada's military is presently accused of having violated Geneva Convention protocols in Afghanistan by giving local security forces captured Taliban suspects, several of whom have declared they were tortured. NATO forces arbitrarily detain suspected "terrorists" in compounds that include Bagram (Afghanistan), Abu Ghraib (Iraq), Millhaven Penitentiary (Ontario) and the infamous Guantanamo.

Many people gathered to watch the parade clapped in support of the anti-war group as it was forced to exit by the Victoria police, yelling: "Let them speak. Leave them in the parade. Leave them alone". The street theatre took place in front of Victoria's mayor, Chief of Police and other municipal officials sitting in front of Centennial Square. A flyer distributed to hundreds of bystanders explained the growing opposition to Canada's military operations in Afghanistan.

"The human rights abuses inflicted on so-called terrorists, in Afghan prisons is just the tip of the iceberg of this shameful mission," stated Tamara Herman, an organizer with the Canada Out of Afghanistan Campaign's and a 'prisoner', in the street theatre performance. "A skyrocketing civilian death toll, rape and sexual harassment at the hands of foreign troops, a corrupt regime and the health hazards associated with depleted uranium munitions are among the other reasons to oppose the Afghanistan mission. This is a war for oil and power. We are not there to liberate anyone. And, as usual, the worlds poorest people are the casualties."

For information, interviews or to view additional photos: www.canadaoutofafghanistan.ca or outofafghanistan@yahoo.ca.



"The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth becomes the greatest enemy of the State."

Dr. Joseph M. Goebbels

HOPE FOR THE POOR AND HOMELESS

from Gerry Masuda

In the Summer issue of YES Magazine, there is an inspiring article titled Democracy Rising. It describes how the poor people of Latin America are building democracies from the bottom up. They are using their large numbers to win political power and social justice.

aThe poor in Latin America had enough of poverty and now are redefining their societies and their democracies. They have self-organized into strong, dynamic, social movements with enough power to drive national politics.

In Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Venezuela and Bolivia, the poor have won the elections.

It can be done in Victoria. The number of poor in any BC riding is far larger than the difference in votes between the winner and loser of local elections. If the poor in a riding register to vote and vote as a block, they can unseat the incumbent member either in the provincial or federal elections.

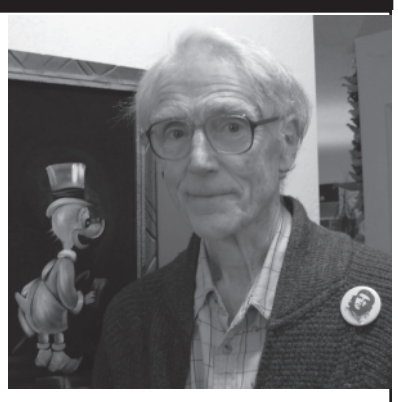
Those living in Victoria should give this idea serious thought. Gordon Campbell and the Liberal Party are vulnerable to the poor registering and block voting.

Robert Arnold (phone 250-595-6871, email greyknight@shaw.ca) is already starting to self-organize. He is not interested in forming a poor people's political party. His plan is to block vote to swing elections. He would then put pressure on whoever the poor helped to win to meet the needs and desires of the poor and the homeless.

The examples in Latin America prove that this can be done.

Further Musings on Canada's Role in Afghanistan

from Don Startin



Those of us with computer access were horrified, but not surprised, to learn that Malalai Joya has been expelled from the Afghan Parliament for three years and has charges pending against her. She is not permitted to leave the country. Readers will remember that Street Newz published her September speech to the Canadian NDP convention in the December 06 Street Newz (archived at http://relativenewz.ca).

Joya's political stance is highly critical of the corruption in her country and the presence of drug lords and war criminals in the Jurga. Her expulsion has sparked outrage, and at least three large demonstrations in Afghanistan in her support. Internet sites concerning her indicate that she is in physical danger now that her status as a member of the jurga has been removed.

Readers wishing to obtain information about her or send an internet contribution can do so at malalaijoya.com. We are hoping she will use the funds to enhance her personal security.

In the T.C. for June 6th there is a picture of the funeral of Zakia Zaki who was killed after refusing to shut down her radio station which was funded by the west. This news reinforces our concern for Malalai's safety.

I must apologise for an error in June's Musings. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan with closer to 10,000 men rather than the 50,000 I reported. 50,000 was regarded as the number they should have sent by the author of the article I was drawing on for my article.

The Canadian beaver was walking down a mountain trail deep in the heart of the Hindu Kush when he met an Afghan squirrel. The beaver asked if he was on the right road. The squirrel, who was a reincarnation of Sheikh Sa'adi of Shiraz, replied "I fear you will never reach Mecca, O traveller, you are on the road to Turkestan."

And so we find ourselves back in the Afghanistan of today where our military continue to try and pacify Kandahar Province from their base at Kandahar Airfield, as part of I.S.A.F., a presently U.S. led N.A.T.O. force responsible, ostensibly, for eradicating the Taliban, and rebuilding the country.

Interviews are reported of soldiers who all say that they believe in their mission, and wouldn't want Canada to pull out because we would be letting down the 56 soldiers who have given their lives to complete the mission. We also read of soldiers who have served in Afghanistan and are unhappy with the situation. Officers, on the ground there, who are authorized to speak to the media, are trained to present the best possible spin on situations as they arise. Loyalty upwards and downwards is the name of the game and is ingrained in all ranks from Private to General.

As we know, General Hillier is known for his often simplistic, and macho, pronouncements on the Kandahar mission. However, they are the type of announcement that appeals to the hawks in the community and to the majority of committed soldiers slugging it out in the field. Generals have to be loyal to their civilian bosses in the Canadian cabinet, however misguided the policies they have been ordered to carry out.

It is noteworthy that our combat troops have begun to be very careful about engaging the Taliban when they are taking refuge, or firing from dwellings known to have civilians in them, also that the Taliban operative and fighters are dispersing widely over the country and insinuating themselves among the villages and hamlets of the countryside. In all probability this is the new policy of Mullah Omar and his advisers and is in their best interests together with roadside mines of various sorts. We'll hope that they don't get any 40 cal snipers rifles like our snipers have; they'd be ideal for picking off our tank and armoured car commanders who need to keep their heads out of their vehicle hatches.

Don Startin is an activist and gardener, an ex-military man who has done many different things since leaving the army. Don currently lives a life of simplicity with his wife in Victoria B.C.

Ask a Herbalist

James Christian is a fully qualified Medical Herbalist who runs an Organic Herbal Medicine Clinic and Dispensary in James Bay at the James Bay Community Project. He is the President of the Modern and Traditional Herbalists Guild of BC and Dean of the School of Phytotherapy at Pacific Rim College in Market Square.

Dear James, I don't have a lot of extra money every month, but I want to start investing in preventative medicine so I can live a long and healthy life. Where's a good place to start?

Jiminy Cricket, Victoria

Dear Jiminy,

This is a very important question and one that many people today wonder about. I often get asked "What herb should I be taking everyday?" The short answer is that there isn't one single herb that everyone should be taking every day. In Herbal Medicine, and other Holistic Health Care, it is always the person that is treated and supported rather than any symptom or disease and everyone is individual with their own unique lifestyle and health concerns. If you have current specific health concerns, or a family history of health issues that you are worried about, please consult with a Holistic Heath Care practitioner to see what treatment plan can be made specific for you.

There are some things though that everyone should be doing to minimize dis-ease and they include proper nutrition, adequate exercise, lots of water and fresh air. Ensuring that you get all of these things, you should be able to remain healthy. Living in Victoria allows at least 3 of these 4 things to be easy to attain and abundant, but many people have trouble with proper nutrition. There is one product that I do recommend to many people to use daily and it is called Vitamineral Green. It is a vegan, organic, live food made from various plants, seaweeds and algaes and provides all the minerals, vitamins and trace elements that the body needs in a form that is bio-available (your body is able to absorb them and use them effectively). Many people have great health success just from incorporating this one product into their daily routine! You won't find this product on many shelves in Victoria, so check their website at www.healthforce.com or come and see me at my clinic.

If you have any questions about Holistic Health and Healing Herbs, please feel free to email me at medicalherbalist@yahoo.ca or call me at 250 920 8351. You can see more about me at www.askaherbalist.ca. I have a sliding fee scale and offer discounts to students, seniors and low-income individuals. Please get in touch with me to book an appointment today.

next month James answers:

Dear James, What is the difference between using Herbal Medicine from the shelf of a Natural Health Food Store or Pharmacy and herbs bought from a Professional Herbalist?

You Get What You Pay For

from cyann ray

We hear so much about the plight of the homeless but poverty comes in many shades and affects alot more people than those who are so visable living out of a pack or cart on the streets. I am not, nor have I ever been homeless despite living below the poverty line since leaving my partner and becoming a single mom in 1982. A proud under-consumer, I mastered living well on less and rarely considered myself hard-done-by. It was not until my last move nearly 6 years ago that I first felt the sting of shame associated with being poor. It was an eye-opener.

Regular readers of Victoria Street Newz will recall my piece "Cash Only Please" where I stated that "over a dozen prospective landlords turned me away." I was initially insulted. How dare anyone think I'm an irresponsible or unsuitable tenant just because I have a limited income. All of my previous landlords would have provided stellar references. With this new discrimination facing me, I wondered how those folks carrying a grander burden than mine managed to move indoors and secure a place to live. My only questionable baggage is that I choose not to have a bank account and I am on a disability pension.

As each landlord turned me away, I became outraged, confused, frustrated and eventually, desperate. It was only through a personal recommendation from another tenant that I managed to get into this place I've called home for the last five plus years. Despite lowering my standard of living considerably, I've created a lovely, little place for myself. Humbled by the whole experience, I've learned to settle and appreciate what is still available to me. I am painfully aware that things could be worse and this fuels my tolerance.

When the mice moved in last November and the management seemed indifferent to these conditions, I discovered that, like many things in life, you get what you pay for. Apparently I'm paying relatively cheap rent ($525) but in return I must live with sub-par management in a rodent infested building. And recently I learned another hazard of being poor and having to live in slum-like conditions: the quality of neighbours.

Poverty does not create bums, thieves, drunks or addicts but few would argue that there is a positive correlation between substance abuse, criminal behaviour and living in poverty. For sure there are many affluent, employed addicts and even more law-biding poor, but the common belief seems to be that the poor are a homogeneous, socially problematic group. WE ARE NOT.

I am not a criminal, an addict or a drunk and yet I have recently been labelled a "trouble-maker" by the manager who has threatened to evict me. He said it was because I've complained about the mice. That can't possibly be the reason. I suspect it has something to do with my new neighbour. A week or so after he moved in, he awakened me at 3:00 am in a drunken stupor looking for drugs. After that encounter I decided to simply ignore the fellow, but living in the same building, our paths were bound to cross. When they did, he totally freaked out and threatened to kill both me and my dog. I informed the manager immediately, but his concern was non-existent so I made an official complaint with the authorities. Now I face possible eviction because it seems the manager and this new tenant are on the same drinking team.

Folks become impoverished for many reasons and although alcohol abuse, for example, often contributes to a decaying existence, non-drinkers can face a similar hell. I suspect that post-secondary education and a supportive family have kept me from a darker descention, but limited funds (and a dog) restrict my options none-the-less. Those poorest of the poor, those highly visable lost souls suffering from addiction, desperation and hopelessness need a safe, clean place to call home and so do I.

Next month my rent increases to $545/mth. and that includes nothing except the mice and the troublesome neighbour. It's criminal that the ministry which is set up to help us expects people to find places to live for just $375/mth. I can only imagine what that buys.

Dear Couz

by Jennifer Hastie

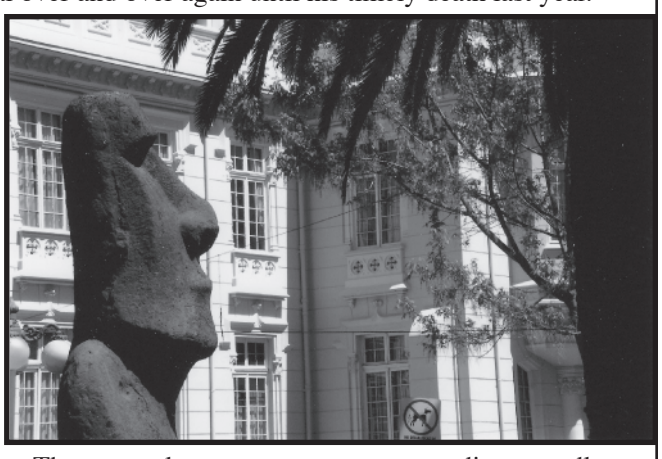
I sure hope that you were able to see some of that excellent native art when you were downtown in the inner harbour last month.

You were asking about our travels in Chile. We were only in Chile for a few days, resting up before we hopped on to our next airplane. We had, of course, come to Santiago to see the famed "Museum of Pre-Columbian Art." This world renowned museum houses a collection of native artifacts gathered from the last 4500 years. The collections come from the indigenous cultures that existed all over Central and South America. So many cultures producing so many beautiful pieces of art have reflected so much wisdom. Here they sit for us to view before we head for lunch or nap time or whatever….

Chile is a reflection of the Spanish Colonial onslaught. Forget native rights in this part of the world. Bring on the wonderful Spanish Colonial architecture, bring on the wineries, bring on the slaves, with no rights, of course, right up into the 19th century.

After the Spaniards' colonial rule ended in 1845, the rich just got richer, playing with social clubs, horse races, the opera and, of course, sending their children to be educated in Europe.

The Allende government in the early 1970s was one of the few governments who tried to help the local people. Unfortunately, the CIA, with its US approval, overthrew the government and replaced it with one of the worst Latin American military juntas, led by Augusto Pinochet. Yes, Couz, he's the man who has just recently died, the man who managed to delay his world court trial over and over again until his timely death last year.



While we were in Santiago, Couz, we stayed at a hotel called the "Hotel Gallerias." I became very curious about the décor: There are two Easter Island-like statues on either side of the front door to the sidewalk. There are also two more statues standing proudly on either side of the chlorine-laden pool. Huge pottery bowls sit right in the middle of a lounge area. Many small bowls and displays of weaving - these things look like artifacts - sit along a wall in the lounge area, a place where we can go and rest our weary tourist-legs as we wait for the restaurant to open.

You know me. I must ask at the front desk: Are these bowls copies of what's in the museum? No, says the office clerk, they are real.

WHAT? I say to myself. She must have it wrong; after all, she's supposed to be taking money in and directing people to the right rooms, not answering silly tourist questions.

But I ask again, when the afternoon shift comes in to work. The answer is the same. The Easter Island statues are not old, I am told, they are apparently made by an artist who is a descendant of the original Easter Island inhabitants. The artifacts, the woman proudly says, are "on loan" from the museum.

WHAT? I say to myself. And they sit right here, for me to handle if I reach far enough over a small barrier. These artifacts apparently come from an archeological "dig" in southern Chile. And it becomes more and more curious: we didn't see any Easter Island statues anywhere in the Museum of Pre Columbian Art.

I ask yet another clerk, for I am getting more and more confused. He claims that the owner BOUGHT the artifacts from "his good friend" who runs the museum.

There's a final crunch to all of this curious learning, Couz. When I got back in Canada, I attended a local lecture and found, to my surprise, that a Mapuche Indian was part of a panel discussion. The Mapuche are the original Native Americans of Chile.

Through an interpreter, he told me that this "good friend of the museum owner" made his money during World War II selling weapons to Germany. He confirmed that the owner has, indeed, bought the artifacts to decorate his hotel.

I was shocked, calling it an insult to the original peoples of South America. He agreed.

You know, Couz, maybe there is a problem with all these native land claims up here in B.C. But at least their culture is still alive. There's still hope, for our courts recognize that our Native Indians were the stewards of the land before our ancestors came along and said "move over, guys, we're here and we know what you need to become civilized."

Did our ancestors really figure it was okay to move in and take over? Do we lose something in all of this? If we haven't lost something, then how come I am drawn to the native spirituality? How come I always want to buy native artifacts for presents or even just to decorate my own home? Was there another way to do things?

Do you want to start a letter-writing campaign to disgrace the government in Chile who would allow such a sale of artifacts so carelessly displayed in a hotel? Does anyone out there care?

Jennifer and her husband live in Victoria today. She is a healthy, active senior who enjoys writing volunteer articles for various publications.

From The Boondocks

by Ceritanne

We the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible, for the ungrateful. We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing. ~ Anonymous

Just about sums up life for the sick, disabled, poor and generally disadvantaged within the Province of BC under the BC Liberal regime in the Year of Our Lord 2007.

Recently I had an experience in dealing with the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, in particular the disability branch of the Ministry euphemistically referred to as Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers. One wonders at the phraseology of the Liberals who are true reverse wordsmiths to the extreme. The confusing language they have created is equal to the controlling rules and regulations in the legislated Act under which thousands are forced to live in order to merely exist.

Here's the scoop. Under the Act, those people deemed as Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers are permitted, on a monthly basis, to keep $500.00 worth of "earned income" without deduction. So, one asks, what is "earned income"? According to the "Interpretation" under Part 1 – Interpretation, "earned income" is "any money or value received in exchange for work or the provision of a service."

The point in question was whether or not collecting rent is "earned income." Under the same section of the Act, the answer is yes, "earned income" is "money or value received from renting rooms that are common to and part of a person's place of residence."

OK, next question, what about "earnings exemptions?" Is collecting rent included in the $500.00 per month earnings exemptions which went into effect March 1, 2006? Short answer, Yes.

Noteworthy, is that when these questions were initially asked of Ministry staff the "client" was told they had the correct interpretation of the Act and everything was fine. Au contraire said the officious little bureaucrat at the front desk when the "client" came in for the yearly review & update. As the "client" tried to explain, in full view and in full hearing of everyone in the waiting room (so much for privacy issues), that a background check on the interpretation of the Act had been done and everything was presumably OK, yet now there is some question? Well, who decides? The unfriendly bureaucrat shot back, "I do." Gulp…claxon sound, Red Alert.

On returning home the "client" telephoned the disability office repeatedly for a week trying to make contact with someone who had the authority to straighten the matter up, only to discover that next month's disability cheque had been placed "on hold." So began 25 days of hell.

Finally, one day prior to cheque issue day, a supervisor made contact with the "client" explaining (inaccurately) that 25% of the rent already collected would have to be paid back at $20.00 per month and thereafter 25% of the gross rental income would be deducted from each monthly cheque.

The "client" told the supervisor that particular section of the regulation she was referring to was legislated prior to the Earnings Exemptions regulation wherein $500.00 per month in "earned income" applies and overrides paying back something that has been deemed exempt. Oh said the supervisor, advising the "client" that she would look into this and phone back. Fine.

The supervisor phoned back and told the "client," "You are right."

25 days of Hell and all the time "right." How nice. Does Ministry staff not know how the Act reads, do they not have to educate themselves on how the Act applies to the "clients" they have been hired to serve? Is their prime function one of sleuth, looking to uncover fraudulent behaviour?

Not only have the bureaucrats been shifted around so much within the Ministry that they cannot be counted on to know anything, they have also been overcome by propaganda that the saving of money is of more worth than the helping of people in need. A humanistic value system has been sacrificed by so-called political leaders who worship money, with the effects of this bad example filtering down through the system to the very people whose jobs are designed to facilitate social assistance.

The morale of this story is everyone living under any Act, if physically and mentally able to, must educate themselves, then stand up for their rights.

If assistance is needed in dealing with the bureaucrats, don't be shy about asking and try not to feel intimidated or fearfully draw back into a shell. The first line of defense may be found by contacting either one of the following resource centers then narrowing a search down to the community level.

For online list of Anti-Poverty Advocates in BC:
http://povnet.org/advocates/bc-map.html

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities:
http://www.bccpd.bc.ca/s/ADA.asp

Victoria's Committee to End Homelessness

The Committee to End Homelessness in Victoria began as the Ad Hoc Coalition on Homelessness, with the assistance of the Communities Solidarity Coalition. The idea behind it is to give those who are homeless, or who had recent experience with homelessness, assistance in getting attention directly to their situation.

In addition to advocacy, we plan power lunches which take place at Our Place, 711 Pandora. If you have food to donate or would like to help with the lunch, call Rose at 812-0199.

Regular planning meetings are held Wednesday nights, 7 p.m. at Silver Threads - 1740 Douglas St.

If you are homeless, have been homeless, or think you could be homeless, you are encouraged to join together with the committee in our actions.

For more information write to Phil at plyons@vcn.bc.ca or Don at cridstar@islandnet.com.

Regular Street Newz readers may notice that the Left Coast Events and Housing and Resource Lists, previously printed in each issue, have been replaced. We now receive so many excellent articles that we've chosen to use those two pages to publish written submissions.

But fear not -- the Resource lists and the Left Coast Events list (updated weekly) are available online at

relativenewz.ca

Street Newz offers a big Thank-You to Daryl Noullette who wrote the following to the Manager of Hansbroun Investments:

Sir or Madam,

I'm writing re your decision to prohibit the "Street Newz" vendor from Saanich Center. "Monday Magazine" has quoted a Saanich Center official as saying: "It is a long standing company policy not to allow solicitation on the Mall's private property."

The Gage Canadian Dictionary defines "Solicit" as "1. to ask earnestly; try to get." I have been solicited at Saanich Centrer by panhandlers, Firefighters, MADD, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides etc., but never the "Street Newz" vendor. He basically stands there with his papers saying nothing. In fact, I'm the one who solicits him for a paper. Does that mean I'm no longer welcome at your Mall? The stores we frequent might take exception to that.

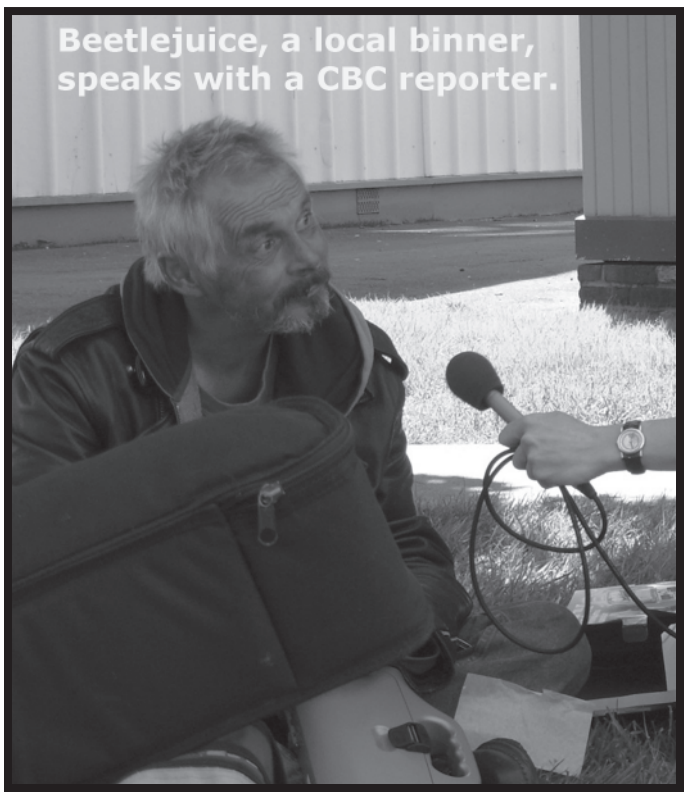
I think the vendor in question should be praised for making an effort to help himself at a time when many others in a similar situation would not. Without a lot of fan-fare I'm hoping your company will quietly reinstate the vendor. It would be the charitable thing to do.

Participatory Sustainable Waste Management

by Jutta Gutberlet

Binning, the term for resource recovery from household waste, is a widespread activity and an imperative theme within the sustainability debate. It means opportunities to generate income and to improve environmental health.

Informal recyclers involved in this work -the binners- are doing an important environmental job. There is an excellent opportunity for the social economy to create employment and build environmental stewardship. This is exactly the aim of the university partnership project Participatory Sustainable Waste Management, initiated in March 2005.



Beetlejuice, a local binner, speaks with a CBC reporter.

The project, funded by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, works with recycling coops and associations, local governments, and non-governmental partners in the Metropolitan area of São Paulo in Brazil. The purpose is to increase the effectiveness and safety of informal and organized recycling and to increase and generate income. An important positive side effect is improved environmental awareness through door-to-door selective collection and consequently recovering what would otherwise go to the landfill or litter the environment.

The project works with capacity building and aims to first train the members of the management committee (MC) of the project, (composed of key representatives from the recyclers, local governments, and partner institutions), who will then be training other recycling leaders and government technicians. Several workshops were already conducted on participatory management, collective commercialization and micro credit. Promoting collaboration, integration and participation in project management, participants have already built a strong ownership over the project, which now allows the implementation of a second phase of capacity building. The MC is involved in all steps of the project, from planning, implementation, monitoring to project evaluation.

Meetings and workshops have helped to structure, organize and strengthen the cooperatives, associations and community groups involved in our project. One of the first successes of the project is the establishment of a network for collective commercialization. This enables the recycling groups to get better prices because they can sell in larger quantities directly to the industry. Usually, middlemen are the ones that make most profits from informal recycling, because binners depend on them if there is no collective commercialization in place. Last year a micro-credit fund was established by the recyclers, in order to tackle the bottleneck during the process of collective commercialization. All these initiatives are real life experiences with solidarity economy.

We are also involved in public engagement activities in Canada. For example, last year faculty and students from the Community based Research laboratory at the Department of Geography organized a debate with representatives from the local and provincial government, business and binners from Vancouver and Victoria to discuss inclusive waste management. This event was the beginning of a new research project with binners in Victoria and Vancouver. Under this new endeavour a participatory census on the binning community in Victoria is currently being conducted.

It is imperative to generate more knowledge about the livelihood issues of binners, in order to tackle the serious issues this community is facing with stigmatization and harassment. Anyone should be appalled and revolted by the aggression against the two binners in Victoria. These recent incidents of harassment are unacceptable and need to be addressed by the public and the government.

It would be an easy step for waste management and social policies to collaborate and engage in the search for appropriate solutions that improve the livelihoods of the recyclers -the most excluded individuals in our society, in the North and in the South- and to diminish the waste of resources at the same time.

If you are interested in learning more about our research and related topics take a look at our website, read our quarterly PSWM Newsletter, or contact us:

Jutta Gutberlet, Community based Research Laboratory
Phone: 721-7360, http://pswm.uvic.ca/en/home/, juttag@uvic.ca

To the Wilds Wasting

by Chris Cook

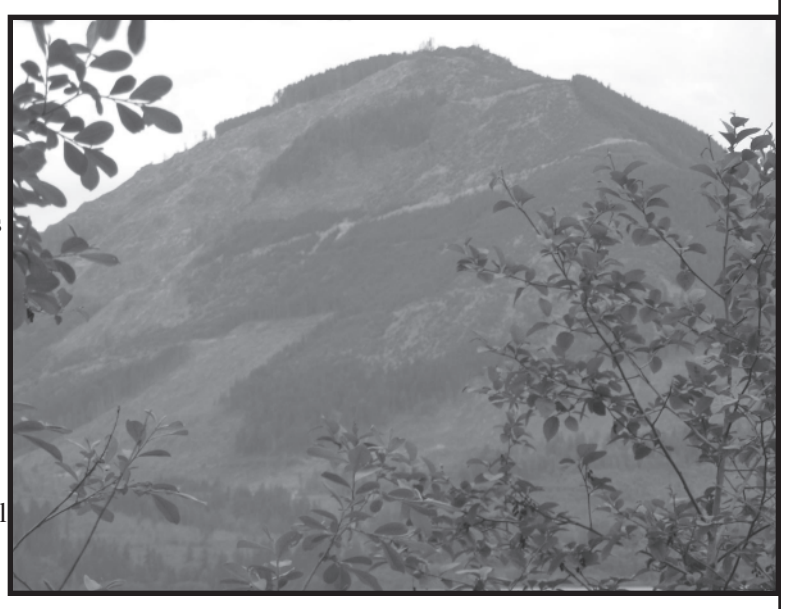
Perhaps it's all a little wasted on one such as me; I live here, amidst the crowning splendor of the great Northwest of Continental North America. The first, the native, indigenous peoples (some of them at least) called what they understood of this verdant and varied wonderland, 'Turtle Island,' understanding, I like to think, the closed nature of their environment. They understood, from what we can glean from their cosmologies and the survivors of the greatest genocide ever witnessed in human history, the sacred connection of all things, animal, vegetable, mineral, the living and the dead, and too knew their place as a part of this greater whole.

But I still don't quite get it.

Yes, I appreciate the beauty of my treed prospect: I look upon it from my window, watching the birds and marveling at their stoic existence; surviving naked in a world that seems intent on destroying you. I look at the snow-capped, purple majesty of the mighty Olympic Mountain Range, its magnificence a shaming reproof of the puny Greek namesakes. What can the Gods of humans be before such divine architecture? But I fear, my soul is lost. Mired within the wires of endless ambition and industry, there seems an industrial callous grown around that part of my animal nature that once recognized itself in the flora and fauna, mountains, forests, and wild places. Beautiful still, yes, but extant.

I tell you this that you may picture me: 21st Century posterman of technological society's ultimate design; entirely dependent for my survival on a system that needs feed voraciously on the wild, scooping it wholesale into a maw whose production line never ends.

Now, witness me ride my Japanese motorcycle, strictly designed to run on the millions of miles of asphalt ribbon criss-crossing the turtle's back, leave the smooth to approach a Vancouver Island backwoods wilderness confab with the folks behind Wild Earth Rendezvous '07.



Magnificently unprepared, with a vague map of area logging roads leading to Hadikin Lake (an "Indian" name no doubt, it's meaning a mystery to me yet), and a jerry-can bungied to the seat to see me home on a journey too far for a single tank of gas.

Ignoring my worst fears of mechanical breakdown, or encountering an oncoming logging truck, trucks that tear down these narrow roads too heavy to stop and their drivers too smart to swerve, I bump and grind along, rarely leaving second gear, my helmet sacrificed to the heat, banging against the side of the bike, filling with the dust we're kicking up.

Though I've lived on this island long enough to call it home, I've never been back in these expanses, the generator of the wealth that settled Victoria and built the fortunes of the timber barons of yore. Mile upon mile, over and around small mountains, through valleys where some of the creeks still thrive, but most have long since been choked by the detritus of this industry most foul.

And the barons are here yet, making their fortunes for faraway share-holders; people like me, who have never seen these wild lands scarred. Rounding a bend, the jerry-can has bounced off the bike again. I stop, and walk back the trail, giving the motor a minute to rest and listen. The silence of the machine is instantly populated with bird song, wind-creaking trees, and vaguely a distant water course. Then the thrumming of helicopter blades, as a mammoth helicopter, searches the deep woods beyond the roads for the giants still remaining; looking to take out the last of the first growth.

I meet up with some of the crew at the Wild Earth. They're learning how to climb trees, build protest platforms, deal with media and police, and share stories of fights past here and around the world, efforts to stay the destruction long enough to preserve at least some of what the natural world has provided over these millions of years; not for us necessarily, or even for those to follow, but because they believe as a part of everything they must. Then they will ready for the campaigns to come in a war that will never end.

In Victoria, where the rate of "development" is eclipsed nowhere, save the manic building booms of China, what is left of our urban, and suburban wild spaces is disappearing fast. The next step, logically is up-island. Langford council and its mayor have bent to the notion of unrestricted expansion in the name of increased tax revenues. They're encouraged by the Provincial Capital Commission, a quasi-governmental body filled with Chamber of Commerce denizens, determined that making your pile is the preeminent order of existence, regardless if you must do so by scrambling over the bodies of the remainder of the wilds. They are currently behind the expansion plans of the Bear Mountain development that will, if unchecked, swallow whole the lands abutting the Highlands, severing the long-touted "sea-to-sea greenbelt" ambitions of the TLC (The Land Conservancy society).

This expansion naturally requires millions of tax-payer dollars to build the second clover leaf highway exchange to facilitate the driving needs of the anticipated thousands of wealthy retirees who will pay their millions for monster homes next to the acres of golf courses cut into the mountains and valleys of the priceless wild lands. But there is a small glitch, a fly in the proverbial butter of Bear Mountain's idyll.

Perched on a small platform in the tree canopy of a small patch of strategically chosen forest land in the path of the proposed highway interchange sits a dedicated defender. Working together in shifts, the tree-sit has been occupied these last two months (at time of writing), and those there vow to maintain the position in the path of the bulldozers and chainsaws. Their hope is to create enough time for sober second thought by the people of Victoria and outlying areas like Langford; time for the people already living here to think: Why they like being here, and most importantly, why they should sacrifice it for the dreams of off-shore development companies and the train of carpetbaggers in their wake?

For me, travelling into those wildlands for the first time, it brings home the great disconnect between the natural animal of the wilds I once was, and the dependent vassal of hyper-civilization I've become. If we collectively are ever to save this heritage, one we so casually discard today, we will need these wild refugias survive to remind us of that part of our soul we cannot afford to allow atrophy.

Let's Get Political

From Brian Mason

Societies are organized for consistency and stability, not for change.... Social change requires deep political engagement.
Ronnie Lipschutz, Global Environmental Politics

You hear it said at every social justice and environmental protest: don't expect politicians to lead or show initiative – they take their cues from public opinion. Simply e-mail, phone or, even better, send a genuine handwritten letter to a politician expressing your outrage. Then, voila! At some indefinable level of public input, the big political decisions are supposed to start going in the right direction for a change.

Huh? What is having political power if not being in a position to lead. What are politicians waiting for? As Fritjof Capra put it, "what we need most urgently is political will and leadership."

Politics, regrettably, has become all about power rather than about exercising meaningful or virtuous social governance. Gaining power, enhancing it, holding on to it, and inevitably losing it – that's politics. Yet it seems the part about holding onto power has become the sole preoccupation of today's so-called leaders. If someone craves power so much, they likely shouldn't be allowed to exercise it in the first place. It's one reason the ancient Greek city-states devised a method of direct democracy where every citizen took a turn at holding public office.

Political power is bunched unevenly along a continuum, of course. Few people in Canada today are positioned to actually make and carry out decisions; most are completely disempowered (apart from the periodic, almost meaningless act of voting) while a few struggle to influence decision-making with little success.

Which brings me back to those social justice and environmental get-togethers, usually on the lawns of our legislature, in a lecture hall at UVIC or at some other suitably spartan, non-corporate venue like the library or a seniors' centre. The progressive movement is losing the day for one simple reason: it doesn't have effective political power in any sustained or decisive way.

It's a fractured movement. Most of its organisations focus on small niches, operating on their own within no discernible social policy framework. Or, even worse, they assume the validity and legitimacy of status quo structures. A fragmented lot, they don't so much bicker among themselves as ignore one another, seldom forming durable alliances or coalitions. Relatively impoverished, they are mostly waving homemade placards on the sidelines as the mainstream corporate-political powers blithely carry on gorging themselves at the expense of both the biosphere and the poor.

Protests, marches, rallies, petitions, letter-writing campaigns, e-mail deluges: these are only pretenders to the throne. They are finger-wagging, mere scratching at the door, having little effect on social policy and structures. Dissent is tolerated to the extent it is benign. Protest happens, then nothing happens; that's the way it works. If it worked at all, we wouldn't have nearly so many perilous environmental and social justice crises. Arrayed against progressive forces is an entrenched system oozing political power and financial wealth.

Progressive movements, for one, need to shed the security blanket of tax-exempt charitable status. A few, like the Council of Canadians and Sea Shepherd Society, realize you can't take a serious run at the powerful without taking an overt political stance. Last provincial election, most of our brave social action groups tied themselves into knots trying to preserve their delicate charitable status. Instead of taking strong political positions, of backing specific parties or candidates – or even running a candidate – they watered everything down into a "Vote Environment" slogan. Talk about not leading! It was a dereliction of principle and purpose.

From the vantage of those in power, corralling all the progressive organizations under the charity banner is a convenient way of keeping the opposing forces well behaved within narrowly defined boundaries. Kind of like establishing all the rowdy bars and cabarets along one or two streets; that way the police always know where to hang out at closing time.

Inevitably, the point is brought home that it's only ever been a small number of people who have brought about real changes in the world. Examples like Gandhi and Jody Williams, who spearheaded the movement to ban landmines, are offered up as testimony to the power of one individual. Right. And Stephen Harper is quaking on Parliament Hill. These exemplars are considered heroes precisely because protest actions rarely succeed at a structure-altering level. Those that have, stand out. And they took a long, long time to do so – so long, in fact, it's debatable to what extent the change eventually realised could still be considered radical when it occurred. Besides, we can no longer afford the luxury of slowly-coalescing movements. The destructive power of global capitalism is accelerating.

We need to face some difficult truths. We are a top predator. All our social organizations (with few exceptions) have been hierarchical, exploitative, exclusive – and destructive. We are now the single most populous species of mammal on the planet. We have intruded on, penetrated and disturbed every continent and sea on earth, we have sickened earth's atmosphere, and now we are beginning to contaminate space. Every single species of flora and fauna on earth is at risk because of our actions, values and our sheer numbers. Our levels of consumption are killing the earth. Conflict, war and cruelty are constants. Still, we persist.

We keep thinking we can get it right. Monotheism, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, liberalism, imperialism, colonialism, slaving, Marxism, socialism, war to end all wars, postmodernism, capitalism, multi-lateralism, globalisation, environmentalism, war on terrorism, and on and on: underpinnings of destructive Western industrial civilisation, every one of them. We are fast running out of "isms". Our ideologies and strategies don't seem up to the task. Maybe it's just us, what we fundamentally are.

The time for networking and placard waving is long past. We need new structures and new values – in short, a new culture. Lead, politicians, lead. Lead towards a transformed politics of home place, community and self-limitation; of small-scale, local sufficiency; of moderation. We'll all join in. We are, after all, all politicians in our home place. We may have lost control of our government, but we can get it back. We can do direct democracy. If politicians won't lead, we'll take them there.

Submitted by Brian Mason, a writer, philosopher and activist living in James Bay.

Native response to Pope Benedict XVI

By Humberto Cholango, Quito.
Translated by Benedetta Scardovi Mounier (Tlaxcala)

STATEMENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE KICHWA NATION OF ECUADOR IN RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATIONS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI DURING THE MEETING OF THE BISHOPS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (CELAM), THAT TOOK PLACE IN MAY 07 IN BRASIL

As Native peoples and nationalities of the Abya Yala continent (America) we strongly reject the declarations made by the Pope about our ancestral spirituality and the political statements made about some presidents of Latin America and the Caribbean. We especially reject these statements because they were part of a speech addressing a continent in which the gap between the poor and the rich gets bigger every day - a continent where the catholic sentiment (implying centuries of "evangelization"), is still really strong - a continent in which the same religion unfortunately failed to give a fair and dignified life to all the inhabitants.

These declarations have been made precisely when Life on the Earth is being seriously threatened and the responsibility for that threat is not of the presidents quoted by the Pope in his speech, but of others like like the President of the United States, George W. Bush, who brandish the flag of a greedy neoliberal capitalistic system.

What is really unbelievable is that someone who calls himself the representation of Christ on this earth, should be worrying about those Latin American presidents that are socially concerned. It should be clear by now that our continent has the right to self determination. No more new and renewed conquests in the name of nothing.

If we analyze, with simple human sensibility, without fanaticism of any sort, the history of the invasion of Abya Yala carried out by the Spaniards with the complicity of the Catholic Church, we can only get indignated. Surely the Pope must ignore that back in those days the representatives of the Catholic Church, with few honorable exceptions, were accomplices, cover ups, or beneficiaries of one of the most horrible genocides experienced by human society.

More than 70 million people died in concentration camps mainly for mining, public works and construction. Entire nationalities and peoples were wiped out. Look at what happened in Cuba; they would bring in black people, who themselves had to undergo an unfortunate fate, as a replacement for dead people. They exploited our rich soil to economically save their feudal system. The women were cowardly raped and thousands of children died of malnutrition or unknown diseases.

The philosophical and theological idea behind it was that our ancestors "didn't have a soul."

Alongside the murderers of our heroic leaders there was always a priest or a bishop who would indoctrinate the condemned victim, in order for him/her to get baptized before dying while obviously giving up his/her philosophical and theological credo.

Let's not forget father Valverde, the priest who introduced the Bible to Atahualpa in Cajamarca, telling him that it was the word of God. King Atahualpa saw that the book wasn't speaking and threw it away because his own God instead, spoke in the heart of the Mother Earth, in the water, in the wind, in the luminous force of the sun and in the fertility of the moon, in the heartbeat of human beings, of animals and plants. Following this, father Valverde ordered the arrest of Atahualpa.

Some time afterwards, the representative of the God of the Sun and the Moon on this territory was killed after getting baptized and re-named after his murderer, Francisco Pizzarro.

Many of our brothers and sister preferred to die, burned alive rather than giving up their principles. This was the case with our brother Hatuey in the island of Cuba, who rejected the indoctrinating statements made by the priest before his killing about how important it would have been for him to get baptized before dying so that he would have joined the other "Christians" in "Heaven". Hatuey responded that he would have rather gone to Hell than spending his other life together with his oppressors, thieves, and murderers. He eventually was condemned to the stake for this.

In the territory that's now Ecuador, the great leader Calicuchima, rather than accepting the baptism of the priest before his condemnation, rebelled by walking towards the stake and, as the flames encircled him, he screamed with all his might "PACHAKAMAK!" (the Great Spirit Bringing Order to the Totality of Creation).

We should ask the Pope if God - whom he claims he represents - would agree to those crimes against humanity. And we should also remind the Head of the Church and the Spanish government that these kinds of crimes are referred to neither in the earthly laws, nor in the divine ones.

The Christian churches, and the Catholic Church especially, have an enormous debt with Christ, with the poor people of the world and we, the Native peoples and nationalities, have also had to undergo that brutality.

It's inconceivable that in the 21st century, God still has to be defined according to the European standards. The Pope should know that before the Catholic priests and their Bibles reached our territories, our people already had a God and his word is what supported the life of our people and the Mother Earth. The word of God cannot be only contained in a book, and no religion should try to privatize God.

We, the First Nations, were civilizations with governments and social structures ordered according to our principles; we also had our own religion with sacred books, rituals, male and female priests who were the first to be killed by those who served the "god of greed" and not the God of Love that Jesus Christ speaks about.

The ones that desecrated the name of Christ, introducing themselves as his representatives, while they truly were just thieves and murderers, betrayed Christ's noble mission. These were not representatives of Jesus Christ; their "god" was blood thirsty for human lives and for the richness exploited through violence.

It's only fair to remember and give credit to the lives of some priests, which took the side of those they called "indios" in the face of so much violence. People such as Bartolomé de las Casas and other Dominican priests that defended the rights of our ancestors that had been stepped upon. And it's also fair to remember and present our deepest respect to all religious men and women, bishop and priests that gave their lives to help the poor of our continent and of any other part of the world; we are especially grateful to Monsignor Leonidas Proaño who worked honestly with the poor of Ecuador and served for the cause of the liberation of the Native Peoples and Nationalities for more than 30 years.

The representatives of God today, of whichever Christian church, should respect and revere life just as Jesus did. They have the ethical and moral duty to condemn all injustice. You cannot preach the message of Jesus Christ from the opulent point of view, from the point of view of the biggest destroyers of life on earth.

The Pope stated that "the utopia of revitalizing pre-Columbian religions, separating them from that of Christ and of the universal church, would not represent a step forward but a step backward for the native peoples" who reached "a blend of their own culture and the Christian faith which missionaries offered them."

We think the life of Jesus is the Great Light coming from Inti Yaya (Paternal and Maternal Light that supports it all), whose aim is to deter anything that doesn't let us live in justice and brotherhood among human beings and in harmony with Mother Nature. We respect its authentic followers.

The Pope should note that our religions NEVER DIED, we learned how to merge our beliefs and symbols with the ones of the invaders and oppressors. We keep on going to our temples, because we know that underneath the main Catholic temples there used to be our sacred sites which have been destroyed. With the excuse of building anew they tried to destroy our beliefs but to no avail, since our temples had been built in which the great forces get together reflecting: strength, wisdom and the love of the great spirit, both father and mother of all the creatures living on this beautiful planet.

We give our solidarity to our brother the President EVO MORALES, who works for the poor, a human being that sacrificed his life for truth, justice and fraternity between peoples and we are sure that Jesus Christ considers him his FRIEND.

Our solidarity goes to HUGO CHAVEZ and with FIDEL CASTRO, socially concerned Presidents that sacrificed themselves for a dignified life for the people.

Our hearts are always with those who are, in whichever corner of the world, working for a dignified life for everybody and for the health of Allpa Mama (Mother Earth).

In the name of our ancestors who have been stepped upon and of the million of us, poor people, of the continent of Abya Yala hoping to have a dignified life for all, we renew our strong determination in regaining our rights and we won't allow anybody to carry out another genocide such as the one that started 514 years ago.

Humberto Cholango is the PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF THE KICHWA NATIONALITY OF ECUADOR OR ECUARUNARI, THE MOST NUMEROUS ORGANIZATION OF CONAIE (COUNCIL OF NATIVE NATIONALITIES OF ECUADOR).

This article has been edited for space. To view it in its entirety:

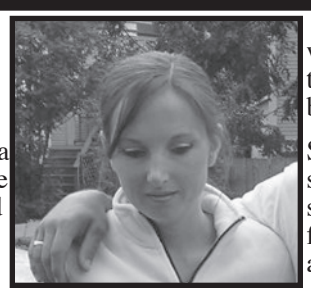
Original Source in Spanish - www.altercom.org/article148222.html

ALTERCOM Communicación para del Libertad
www.rebelion.org/noticia.php?id=51327

Tlaxcala- Translated into English by Benedetta Scardovi Mounier, a member of Tlaxcala, the network of translators for linguistic diversity. www.tlaxcala.es

PAC PARENTS OF APPREHENDED CHILDREN

by Colleen Rae Deroache, RN



The idea behind PAC is to support parents while they go through the process of having a child apprehended. Parents are usually so angry and frustrated that they lose focus of what rights they have and what rights they don't have.

The ministry has seven days to take the parent to court after an apprehension occurs. For seven days the parent is in a state of shock and they start wondering if they will have their child back.

In those seven days the parent is expected to find a lawyer and figure out where legal aid is. The legal aid application takes longer than seven days so the parent knows they won't have representation at the hearing. The parent starts to lose hope.

In the same seven days, the parent is anxiety-ridden wondering when they will get a visit with their child. The parent also wonders: what is my child going to think of me? What will my family say about this? What will my friends think? What will the people at work think? What will the woman at the grocery store think? Will she know my children were taken away because they aren't with me?

Seven days isn't long enough to learn all your rights so you go to court and stand there while duty counsel says his client would like an adjournment, in order to find proper counsel. Now there won't be a hearing for another two weeks.

When you finally talk to a lawyer, he says you should agree with letting the ministry have temporary custody for three months. He says it's best to do it by consent because a hearing would take months and months.

So you go home, think about what the lawyer said and you throw something at the wall. Then your neighbor starts yelling at you to shut the f*** up so you go outside and start yelling back because you've already had enough of everybody's crap.

After the yelling match you turn around to go inside so you can relax and you see the white glare of a police car roll into the driveway. You don't get charged with anything because you're innocent so you count your blessings and walk away.

Two days later social services sends you a copy of their final assessment and, according to their documentation, they've been receiving reports from the police that you are a violent criminal with hundreds of charges pending.

You've missed four days of work going to appointments with lawyers and social workers and call display says it's your boss on the line. Do you pick up - or why bother? You know you're fired.

The day you go back to court you are way too nervous to tell the judge what you had planned to say. Instead you sit and listen as the ministry's lawyer tells everyone that the police have made reports regarding your violent history; that you used to be a good employee up until recently when you began acting sporadically and had to be fired. Then they try to say that all these things combined may mean you're a drug addict and that the child should not be returned.

Although I am making light of this situation, it could actually happen to anyone.

Parents of Apprehended Children support group meets every Friday from 1pm to 3pm at the Blanshard Community Center. Contact Colleen at 388-7696 or cderoache@hotmail.com.

Profile of the Women of Alouette: Devon MacDonald

Dictated by Betty Krawczyk from Alouette Correctional Centre for Women in Maple Ridge, BC. Photo courtesy of Devon Macdonald, May 2007

In order to get a better understanding of a place, one needs to understand the people that are there.

Being where she is, and to offer a better understanding of life at Alouette and prisons in BC, Betty will share with us a series of profiles of her fellow inmates.

Today she introduces us to Devon Macdonald; 23 years old, single mother of 9 month old Dallas.

Betty K: Devon were you incarcerated for most of your pregnancy?

Devon M: I spent 6 months in Surrey Pre-Trial.

Betty K: That must have been hell for you.

Devon M: Yes, it was very scary and stressful.

Betty K: Can you elaborate?

Devon M: It was my first time in jail, I was locked down for 16 hours a day. I was only allowed 1 hour a day outside. And that was onto a cement court.

Betty K: So much for the province's pre-natal care of incarcerated women. Did you have any prenatal care at all while you were at Surrey pre-trial?

Devon M: Yes, but I was 4 months pregnant by the time I got pre-natal care or vitamins.

Betty K: But here at Alouette now, you have your baby with you. How would you describe what it's like rearing your child in prison?

Devon M: Well, I believe the mother baby program here at Alouette is a step in the right direction.. At least my baby is with me, but I think there are better alternatives for mothers in my situation.

Betty K: Such as?

Devon M: Well, programs in the community that allow mothers to learn skills such as budgeting, preparing nutritious foods, and how to take advantage of community resources.

Betty K: how much more time in prison are you looking at now?

Devon M: Potentially another year.

Betty K: And would you like letters from the community a large?

Devon M: Yes, mail really helps to keep me connected with the outside world.

Betty K: Anyone that would like to can write to her at:

Devon Macdonald
Alouette Correctional Centre for Women
P.O. Box 1000,
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3K4

For more information contact
Monika Sheardown
direct: 604.733.4884 cel: 778.865.0664
monika@greendreams.com
www,greendreams.com

Stand Up for Harriet Nahanee!

People across the British Columbia were shocked by the 14 day jail sentence handed down to 71 year old native Elder Harriet Nahanee in January, 2007 for peacefully protesting while inside an injunction zone (on unceded indian land) at Eagleridge Bluffs. Harriet served 9 days in prison at a maximum security pre-trial facility. She had filed an appeal, but became gravely ill and died from pneumonia shortly after being released from prison.

A petition that raises specific concerns surrounding Harriet Nahanee's sentencing is in circulation. It demands that our elected officials call an immediate public inquiry into the handling of this case. Please honour a very courageous native elder by reading the petition, signing it and passing the link on to others on your contact lists.

The Supreme Court of BC must be held accountable for their actions in this case. It is the duty of our elected officials to ensure that a full and public inquiry is held.

www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/489201922

GO ONLINE WITH HOMELESS NATION

Homelessnation.org is a chance to become the media, empower our voices collectively, break down stereotypes and fight for social justice.

Homelessnation.org is a forum by and for the homeless of Canada where YOU can represent yourself the way you want to be presented, tell your story, express your points of view and be heard.

"Everyone has the right to free speech as guaranteed by our Charter of Freedoms. Our fight is peoples' right to be heard." - Gadget, Montreal outreach Worker

JOIN NOW! IT'S FREE! Get your own free webpage and e-mail address at homelessnation.org. Contact Richard via email at richard@boyce.net

RED AGAIN !!

Dear Readers,

Those who have read my writings know the story. My own observations, no influences. I have lots to say, but it's only my opinion.

PASSION

This is not about me, it's going to be about you. There are a few things I would like to express. First, and what I consider most important, is the so-called authority of our government (cops).

I admit they have a tough job but why does it seem like they are always picking on the small guys? You know, homeless street people, panhandlers, etc. They may be in power, but are they really doing more harm than good?

Why do they pick on me just because I try to live on the street? Whey do they dump on us? We (myself) are just trying. Go after the big fish. We're guppies. Besides, look around. We all have a place in life and I may not be what you wanted, but maybe it's all you get.

Now, I have to admit, I myself am no saint but I get a lot of shit on me because of what they think I am. They're so smart and I'm stupid but I'm still here. They may bust my ass, throw me in jail, but I will be back.

Always, Red.

an inaccessible grassy patch in the DTES - Vancouver

Homeless but not Helpless

by Elizabeth Miles - ARTEC - Arts in Therapy, Education & Counselling

I currently work with women who are pregnant and homeless. Along with Janet Christie of the FASD Community Circle our Moms Mentoring Moms Group is a weekly drop in for women who are pregnant, or already have children, and have problems with addiction. We provide lunch, art therapy, presentations from other professionals in the community and advocacy. We try to link the women with as many support services as we can. But the base need, for any of them to gain stability, improve their chances of success in their battle with addiction and provide a stable home for their children is housing, along with adequate support services. Over the last four years there has been a significant increase in the number of drug addicted women who are pregnant and pregnant women who are homeless.

Yet, the debate on "what to do" with the homeless continues to rage on. More money is spent by VIHA researching the issue. The mayor of Victoria is silent as certain of the downtown streets of Victoria are, frankly, going to hell in a hand basket. Normally law abiding citizens engage in a feud with police over the move on law where personal property may be seized. Those to the political right seek clean up, those to the political left seek rights. The government talks about the problem but takes no action. There is a proposal for support workers but no resources for them to offer. Let's stop and KISS - " keep it simple stupid"!

By providing safe, affordable housing to all of our downtown homeless population and those families who are currently sleeping in cars or couch surfing, we will all benefit. The cost of not providing housing costs far more than a realistic subsidy and community service ever would.

People who are homeless are not helpless, they are capable of working, joining community programs, returning to school, but none of those things are really options until the base need is provided, a stable home from which to build a life.

I am a single Mother. I am fortunate to have been able to purchase my own home and I own my own business. These things did not fall into my lap, there was and is a lot of hard work to achieve this, however I had more than one thing going for me, I am not an addict, I am not suffering from an invisible disability such as FASD or mental health and I started from the base of having a home.

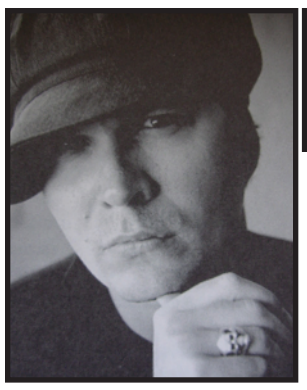
We do not need more shelters, which create a ghetto community which, in turn, creates community problems wherever it is based. We require community housing and programs which offer realistic support for those in need. It is not hard to do this, we just need to get on with it, stop researching, stop creating committees, stop judging and simply just do it.

For those mothers with whom Janet and I are working, it is essential that we provide a safe place for them. Only then they can start caring for themselves and their unborn or newly born children. Let us stop with the, you have to jump through impossible hoops to get help and simply provide help. Money will be saved, our streets will be safer for everybody and we will create a society in which everybody can participate, including those yet to be born children.

Elizabeth Miles is a counsellor, art therapist and writer who resides in Victoria BC. Elizabeth provides art therapy programs to PEERS, Victoria READ Society, FASD Community Circle and to private clients. For more information please visit www.artsintherapy.ca or call (250) 589 6828

Street Muzings

Jesus, in rags



black gnarled
fingers
grasp my
attention
thru the fog
of rage and
hate
and special
self-loathing
i
was wandering down the road
doing my depressed best
to ignore the human refuge
that used to make
my heart ache
with grace
those fingers
pulled up against
the grey blue sky
like a reminder
broke my concrete stare
and, i let my gaze wave
back to that face
ancient and wonderful
the crinkled lips parted
in a wide, bright smile
as the old street mother spoke;
"she still loves you, son
you just have to pray
and wait
and she will sing
for you again.."
without thought
i pulled at my chain wallet
and emptied the shallow content
into her paper cup.
i walked off
with tears in my eyes
and a song
that i'd thought lost
in my heart.

j. fisher - bathtubbing@hotmail.com

DISCLAIMER:
ANY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE VICIOUS, GREEDY PSYCHOPATHS WHO RUN THE CORPORATION/GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

Victoria

O beckoning tourist, come to Victoria, jewel of the Pacific where beauty and flowers bloom, and stay in our luxurious rooms. But please spend some money - your dollars count to make this fine city work. Did I mention the poor, or afflicted? Oh well, help these Loves and you will be happy forevermore - and less restricted.

Of all my fanciful romances, there is one
most passionate and still endures
It is with a woman, a town so pure.
There is a mesmerizing quality she exudes that's for sure!

She's almost too beautiful to be human and quite serene
and very pristine
Is she concealing a mystery or a secret in her eyes?
As she gazes at you with a saucy twinkle or a lusty gleam

Victoria is still quite Victorian as she dons her corset and
shows her bountiful figure with ladylike style
This town, this woman retains her dignity and chastity
she'll have you think
And her stodgy ways have been updated in 2007 as she
numbers three hundred thirty five thousand strong.
To her citizens this Belle can do no wrong.
While her sexy sister Vancouver, who is a brazen strumpet
Lies across the Pacific Blue,
This prim and proper Lass enjoys tea and crumpets
And even parties too.

Her fragile beauty and mirth are most vibrant when she
smiles and greets me with her sunny days.
And Lady, your sadness and tears show when it pours.
When your breath is fresh and warm it caresses my cheek.
I hear your Sweet Songs of Love as you whistle through the trees.
but Victoria Baby you can be such a tempestuous Lover as you
get stormy and blow me off my feet.

You have a friend Victoria, Mayor, Alan Lowe,
This fine gentleman proves that he's got the go and
Keeps the city on a lock, stock, and tow.

What about your friends? The People and the Police you
consort with? What are they like?
I hear your friends can be Obsequious, Pretentious and Loving
too. And your Police, are they a bunch of Dowdy
Bobbies and Dowagers armed with truncheons, a rather
antiquated Lot?

I looked again and to my surprise this troup seemed
to be a Ferocious Fleet of State of the Art Crime-Fighting Machines
I have listened to your fancy Promises and I don't doubt
Your love or Lure.

But one day I will leave you and will surely miss you all
the days of my life
Of a Never Ending Fascination with a Town, of a Woman
that has brought me Love, Happiness, Pain and Strife!

The "infamous" Mark Idczak
(originally printed in the Red Zone - Street Newz's predecessor)

There Are No Winners

In the beginning - Was Lunch
The great big washing machine and mixing machine
at all the great beginnings
All with the great big praying electrical cord
And in the end - After
Was the pause and collection of thought
Bought by miners who mine the sky for
diamonds
At least for these time-beings
Between all the spaces and creases in time
In all of the relative starched bed sheets
and red blankets
All in the in between the feeding time
In the origins and the fishes
In the in-between was in between
Better before and after
Round the singing robins the laughing larks
Bog diving round the bend
Round the bend and round the bend
Flushed forced pushed away
Down the bigger blue glass pipe
To the grating outflow by the sea
Bobbing with seagulls without purpose
By the nose-up-above-the-waves-porpoise
In foam bearding seas
Down the rising bending turn
In salt sardine sun and breeze
On a lightly wrinkled sea
Of blue green and in between grey tin surface too
In freighters yachts and dinghy
Polystyrene water bottles packaging and message bottles
Garlands of seaweed look freshly thrown off deckchairs
There's dinner paper plates and linen table cloths and serviettes
All through the lens of jellyfish electric centre sun light light bulbs
Speed splitting the whales confusing nosing under
Catch their spine in the propeller
Curls out a bloody gouge there
The watery seas and flesh same
All in the glare of one afternoon there.

©Paul Burnside, June 20 07

The world's biggest military spenders

By Sweden International Peace Research Institute (AxisofLogic.com)

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute announced the world's top 10 military spenders for 2006 on June 11, 2007.

The list below shows the amount that each country spent on weapons in 2005 US dollars and the share of world arms expenditures.

1. United States, $528.7 billion, 46 %
2. Britain, $59.2 billion, 5 per cent
3. France, $53.1 billion, 5 per cent
4. China, $49.5 billion, 4 per cent
5. Japan, $43.7 billion, 4 per cent
6. Germany, $37.0 billion, 3 per cent
7. Russia, $34.7 billion, 3 per cent
8. Italy, $29.9 billion, 3 per cent
9. Saudi Arabia, $29.0 billion, 3 %
10. India, $23.9 billion, 2 per cent

This amounts to 78% of total world's spending. The total figure is about $1.7 trillion.

There is money for war...
why not for peace?

If something is happening
all I can do is be willing to
acknowledge that and that is
accepting it.

It's already happening, and
all I can do is acknowledge it.

I can show up to be available-
constantly be available to
show up and be available.

It's like having your hands
open to receive.

The only way out of this life
of suffering is through the
doorway of compassion.

The moment there is nothing
left of you but compassion,
You are the Doorway.

namaste,
Vicki

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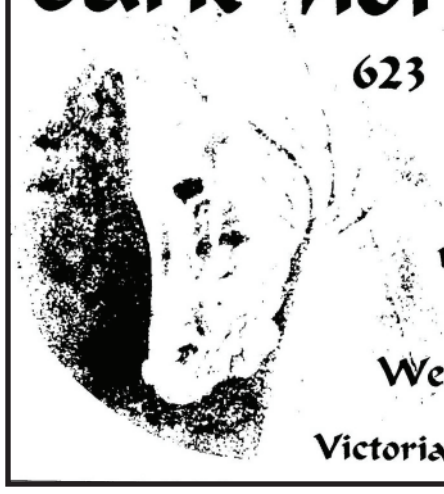
dark horse books



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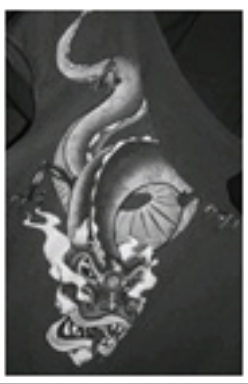

"It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

Mark Twain

Victoria Street Newz Distribution Team

Rose

Berni

Marlene

John

Sean
(photo not yet available)

Rick

Debbie

John

Ken

Ted & Bok

Beans, Beans, Beans .....

	Apr	May	June
Operating Revenue			
Coordinator's Revenue			
Paper Sales (from vendors)	650.00	644.50	550.00
Donations	560.00	40.00	195.00
Subscriptions	0.00	35.00	0.00
Salary from B & R	700.00	659.50	740.50
Total Coordinator's Revenue	1910.00	1379.00	1485.50
B&R Revenue (deposited)			
Advertising	0.00	285.00	0.00
Donations	50.00	135.00	150.00
Subscriptions	35.00	775.00	145.00
Grant Monies	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total B&R Rev. (deposited)	85.00	1195.00	295.00
Total Operating Revenue	1910.00	1379.00	1485.50
Operating Expenses			
Coordinator's Expenses			
Paper & Printing Costs	602.19	543.25	571.34
Office expenses	36.00	24.00	16.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	78.75	80.85	74.82
Community Reciprocity	165.00	85.00	135.00
Total Coordinator's Expenses	881.94	733.10	797.16
B & R Expenses			
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	40.50	40.50	40.50
fm City of Vic Grant	150.00	250.00	0.00
fm KAIROS Grant	250.00	125.00	0.00
fm PSAC Grant	200.00	200.00	225.00
fm B & R reserves	100.00	125.00	475.00
for B & R cheques	46.27	0.00	0.00
sub ttl B&R Expenses	786.77	740.50	740.50
Total Operating Expenses	1668.71	1473.60	1537.66
Ttl Coord Rev minus Expenses *(- is out of pocket, + is salary)*	241.29	-94.60	-52.16
Bread & Roses Balance	4044.14	3938.64	3488.39

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Street Newz is currently published monthly, with a circulation of 1800. It's a project of the *Bread and Roses Collective*, a registered Non-Profit Society. We don't have charitable status, so we can't issue tax receipts, and this limits our funding options considerably.

Recently, our friends at the Canadian Community Housing Foundation purchased a volume subscription. In exchange for their 600 dollars, they'll receive 18 copies of Street Newz each month for a year, delivered to their door. They can then distribute those newspapers to their clients, board of directors, or whoever they choose.

ICO (InnovativeCommunities.Org) are worldwide friends that enable the Canadian Community Housing Foundation to eradicate poverty by creating innovative sustainable communities. ICO has issued a challenge to other organizations, especially those that are charitable, to support the Street Newz by purchasing a volume subscription. You can read about their challenge by accessing the 'Homelessness Centre' at InnovativeCommunities.org.

Thanks!

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